



WRAP

TRIBAL NEWS

March 2006

WRAP Planning Team Meeting – February 22-23 – Salt Lake City

The WRAP Planning Team - comprising the chairs of the WRAP workgroups, committees and forums - met to discuss the progress of each group, identify any funds not yet spent, and identify priority projects needed to complete the Regional Haze SIPs/TIPs. These activities were conducted with the uncertainty caused by the recently released Presidential FY07 Budget Request, which proposes to drastically reduce the amount of funding available to the WRAP and other RPO's in 2007. The priority projects by consensus are the Technical Support System (TSS), the Emissions Data Management System (EDMS) and the Regional Modeling Center. \$760K was identified through savings in the NTEC and WGA administrative budget as well as from reprogrammed funding within the Air Managers Committee (AMC) work plan and others. Each of the groups has been tasked with coming up with a revised FY06-FY07 work plan by mid-April.

***New De Facto SIP
Deadline:***

***At the Planning Team Meeting,
there was agreement that the
“real” deadline for the
Regional Haze SIPs is actually
April 2008, not December 17,
2007.***

Fire Emissions Joint Forum (FEJF) Meeting

Members of the FEJF met in Albuquerque on March 7-8. They reviewed the latest progress on the fire emissions inventories and discussed the development of a “Fire Tracking System,” which will allow for more accurate tracking of emissions from fires and has been identified as a priority project for the FEJF, with an approximate cost of \$130K. Tribes may want to stay abreast of this project as it is intended for use by all burners in the WRAP region, including tribal burners. Also, the Regional Coordination Guidance document continues to move forward, and tribes may also be interested in this, as it is attempting to provide guidance on how state, tribal, federal and local burners and regulators can effectively communicate with each other to reduce the impact of cumulative fires. You can get the latest version at:

http://www.wrapair.org/forums/fejf/meetings/060307m/Phase3_4_930a_presentation.ppt.

WRAP Tribal Policy and Technical Workshop Postponed

As a result of too many conflicting meetings and prior obligations, only a few people were able to attend the WRAP Tribal Policy and Technical Workshop that had been scheduled for March 15-16 in Albuquerque. There were many who expressed interest in attending but couldn't make

it at this time, so NTEC staff decided that it would be best to postpone the workshop until later in the year when more tribal representatives may be available. We are currently looking at the July-August timeframe to reschedule this event, and are willing to entertain your suggestions. Please contact Ken Cronin at kcronin@ntec.org.

Air Managers Committee to Tackle PM NAAQS Proposal

The AMC is coordinating the process of developing WRAP comments on the EPA's proposed PM NAAQS and monitoring rules. The AMC was deemed to be the appropriate body within the WRAP for this task because it consists of representatives of the state and tribal agencies that will be responsible for implementing the regulations, once promulgated. While it is, of course, understood that tribes and states will be commenting individually on the proposal and may not be in agreement on all points, the AMC will identify those points on which there is consensus. The draft comments developed by the AMC will be presented to the WRAP Board at its meeting on climate change (see below: *Upcoming Meetings*).

Given the WRAP's historical focus on regional haze, the visibility implications of the rule will naturally be the starting point for comment. These issues include the effect the proposed primary and secondary PM standards will have on visibility and whether the proposed exemptions for agricultural and mining will undermine regional haze efforts. In addition, the WRAP comments may address aspects of the proposal which more generally affect tribal, state, and local air quality management and planning. Comments may also focus on the need for further scientific understanding and the need for resources for monitoring,

The AMC held its first call on the topic on Monday, March 13. For a compilation of tribal, state, and press material provided for consideration before the call, go to: <http://www.wrapair.org/forums/amc/docs.html>. Contact Ken Cronin or Bill Grantham (bgrantham@ntec.org) for the latest information on this project.

Upcoming Meetings

April 4-5: WRAP Climate Change Meeting. This will be the WRAP Board's second meeting to exchange information on state and tribal climate change activities and to receive information from others on topics pertinent to climate change issues in the West. The Board will also discuss options for western states and tribes to develop greenhouse gas emissions inventories. Reimbursement for travel expenses will be limited to only one member from each WRAP Board member tribe or state. See <http://www.wrapair.org/cal/calendar.php?op=view&id=504> for more information.

This monthly newsheet is a collaboration of the National Tribal Environmental Council's (NTEC's) air program staff assigned to work with the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP), and condenses for the reader the activities and issues of the various forums, committees, and workgroups of the WRAP as they pertain to the tribes within the WRAP region. WRAP - a partnership of the western states (including Alaska), tribes within those states and other stakeholders - is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with the purpose of developing data, tools, and policies needed to improve visibility in parks and wilderness areas across the West. More information on WRAP may be found on its website, www.wrapair.org, while NTEC's website is located at www.ntec.org. If you have questions or suggestions regarding this newsheet, please contact Sandra Sac Parker, Editor and NTEC air program communications specialist, at 505/242-2175 ext. 104 or e-mail sparker@ntec.org.

